

certain death. For this purpose the theatre must be mobile, easy to handle, and absolutely complete in itself. Operations are, of course, performed only while the vehicle is stationary. The theatre proper is 9 ft. 6 in. long, 6 ft. 6 in. wide, and 6 ft. 8 in. high at the lowest point of the roof. Practically the whole of this space is clear for the surgeon and his assistants, as all the accessories are to be found in an annex or cabin at the front of the car, the only fixed furniture being a slopsink which is in one corner and projects 16 in. from the wall. The movable furniture in the theatre consists of three white-enamelled metal tables on wheels to carry surgeon's instruments, dressings, and the anaesthetist's equipment, two stools and an operation table of the latest folding type. Another form of operation table is provided for emergency cases, namely, four upright stanchions which screw into the floor to serve as supports to receive the handles of a stretcher. This obviates the necessity of removing the patient from the original stretcher on which he is first placed, and it is well suited for dealing with cases of hæmorrhage or wounds requiring immediate attention.

#### CURATIVE ELECTRICITY.

An interesting description is given in a recent issue of *The Scotsman* of the application of curative electricity in the Edinburgh War Hospital at Bangour, "where incredible, romantic contrivances are at work and romantic things are being done. Currents of enormous voltage, many times the voltage required for instantaneous electrocution, are in use, handled by the nurses and trained women assistants with a quiet confidence that makes the casual visitor feel a little creepy. Now and then, the superintendent, who has collected the machinery from across the sea, as he explains what the various contrivances can do, and moves the wheels and levers about, pulls his hand away with a suddenness that suggests a bite by a venomous snake. The installation at Bangour is interesting in itself and in respect of what it signifies. Wires conveying high frequency currents of great voltage—electricity tamed for human consumption—are applied to stiffened limbs or nerves that are in process of being restored to their customary functions. The methods of application are various. With trench feet, for instance, it is a matter of stimulating the flow of blood and inducing internal warmth. 'With heat,' observes the superintendent, by way of a broad generalisation, 'you can cure almost anything.' The process is a kindly one. The application of the current to the patient is painless; it is even devoid of discomfort and may almost be said to be pleasant. The peculiarity of these high frequency currents, as the superintendent explains, is that while twenty milliamperes of galvanic current of forty to fifty volts pressure will cause pain, 100 times the quantity, at 15,000 volts, is painless. The amount of this curative electrical energy which can, therefore, be applied to a patient is much greater than by the old methods, effects are produced in

shorter time, and recovery is correspondingly accelerated.

"The Oudin octave of high frequency, again, is the special application for nervous conditions. It has a strong soporific influence. An item in the installation at Bangour is a couch, on which the most sleepless patient must succumb to the gentle influence. Even where the immediate object is not to put the patient to sleep, sleep frequently overtakes him. The first application, of about twenty minutes' duration, usually induces a profound and health-giving period of sleep of ten hours or longer. A chronic case generally succumbs to a second application, or at most to a third. The current is not anæsthetic, for the effects produced persist, and ultimately a healthy regularity of repose is secured. There is a natural closing of the eyes to sleep as in normal and healthy persons. Nervous cases, arising from shell shock, have many curious features. Loss of speech is common. The system adopted by a specialist in this class of case is to persevere in talking to the patient until the stronger will prevails and the man answers, the nervous impediment being thus broken down.

"Finally, there is a machine which measures the condition of the nerves with mathematical accuracy. It gives reliable data showing the degree of success of an operation to unite a severed nerve; and afterwards it will measure, from time to time, the progress made towards recovery. While we examine the sinusoidal, and remark the regular opening and closing of the paralysed hand of the soldier in the instrument's grip, a small clock on a shelf in front of the patient "rings off"; a flexible steel band is released and springs back; and the soldier's period of treatment has come to an end. The clock has switched off the current, and, by means of the bell, has called the attention of the staff to the fact. A glance round the hall shows one of these clocks beside each instrument—automatic attendants, set to a given time, and infallibly terminating the treatment at the pre-arranged moment. The nurses, moving about amongst the patients, are thus relieved of an exacting duty, and can look after a much larger number of cases than would be possible without the lock."

#### ADDITIONAL NURSES REQUIRED.

The Secretary of the War Office makes the announcement that additional nurses are required. Nurses possessing a three years' certificate from a recognised fever, women's or children's hospital, also nurses with not less than two years' general training are required as assistant nurses in Military Hospitals. Salary £30 per annum with allowances.

Application should be made in writing to the Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., War Office.

Nurses with the same qualifications are also required for service in a number of Territorial Hospitals. Application should be made to the Principal Matrons.

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